

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 8 and 9, and replaces the original sheets with Figs. 8 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2 are amended, claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and new claims 5-9 are added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks below.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification because (1) the parent patent application referenced in the present application has now issued, and thus should be referenced as a U.S. patent; and (2) reference numerals for the terms "magnetically conductive" and "magnetically non-conductive portions" should be added. Applicants have amended the specification to obviate the objection.

Applicants have also amended the specification at page 11, lines 5-6 to add reference numerals to the terms "end portion" and "base portion".

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings for failing to include reference numerals to the terms "magnetically conductive" and "magnetically non-conductive."

Applicants have corrected Fig. 9 to obviate the objection.

Further, Applicants have corrected Fig. 8 in add reference numerals to the terms "end portion" and "base portion."

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Satisfy Formal Matters

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended the claim 1 to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Akemakou (U.S. Patent No. 6,093,992). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, Akemakou does not disclose or suggest magnetic circuit means includes a cylindrical portion around which a inductor rotor is disposed and a base portion around which said field coil is wound, as recited in independent claim 1.

Akemakou instead discloses at Figs. 3 and 4, and at col. 4, lines 38-42 that a rotor 205 rotates between an outer stator 201 and an inner stator 211. The inner stator 211 includes a stack of laminations, and has along its inner periphery, a succession of slots 213 which receive an armature winding 214. Nowhere does Akemakou disclose or suggest the above noted features of claim 1. Because Akemakou does not disclose or suggest the above noted features of claim 1, Akemakou does not provide for the benefits and advantages of claim 1, for example, such as making the diameter of the inductor small. See application at page 12, lines 12-14.

Therefore, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 depend on independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, nowhere does Akemakou disclose or suggest magnetic circuit means having a first portion disposed opposite a second peripheral surface of an inductor rotor via a second air gap and a second portion disposed between the first portion and the stator core around which a field coil is wound, as recited in independent claim 5.

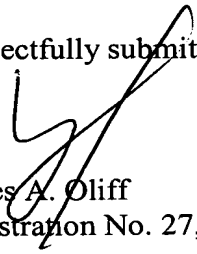
Therefore, independent claim 5 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 6-9 depend on independent claim 5, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:YSC/eks

Attachment:
Figs. 7-10

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